Guidelines for allotment of Government accommodation to Handicapped

1581. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any rules/guidelines relating to allotment of Government accommodation to handicapped persons; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The guidelines for discretionary allotment of General Pool Residential Accommodation in Delhi lays down detailed procedures to regulate such allotments and provides for discretionary allotments to Government officials on medical grounds. Such allotments are made through two Committees duly constituted for the purpose which includes two medical experts. Guidelines on the subject provide for allotment to handicapped persons in the following cases:—

(i) Blind — Those who suffer from any of the following conditions:—

(a) Total absence of sight.

(b) Visual Acuity not exceeding 6/90 or 20/200 (snellen) in the better eye with correcting lenses.

(c) Impression of the field of vision subtending an angle of 20 degrees of worse.

(ii) Deal—Those having hearing loss of more than 90 decibels in the better ear (profound impairment) or total loss of hearing in both ears.

(iii) Orthopaedically handicapped — To the extent of 40% and above disability.

(iv) Mentally handicapped/spastic dependents.

Modernization of Government Press, Ring Road, New Delhi

1582. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the modrnisation/replacement of ageing and technologically obsolet machines, which have become most essential, is sporadic in

Government Presses and efforts to modernise the Press at Ring Road, New Delhi, even after sanction in September, 1993 has not succeeded;

(b) whether the depreciation fund to finance modernisation efforts is not operational in any of the presses and the cost of printing is found to be higher in Government Presses compared to the rates of private presses;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Out of 21 Govt. of India Presses, 16 have been modernised/partially modernised by inducting offset technology. There has been improvement in the quality of printing as well as capacity utilisation after modernisation of the Govt. of India Press, Ring Road, new Delhi in 1997.

(b) and (c) The Depreciation Funds for renewal and replacement of machinery in the Govt. of India Presses are not operational at present.

The reasons for high cost of printing in the Govt. of India Presses in comparison to private Presses are as under:—

(i) Government Presses do not function as commercial establishments but play the role of model employer providing facilities like conveyance allowance, dearness allowance etc. to its employees as per instructions.

(ii) Regular expenditure is incurred on maintaining all facilities and complying with satutory Govt. regulations as under the Factory Act and other Govt. orders.

(iii) Overhead expenses are comparatively higher.

(iv) Presses have to print/execute all types of jobs including short run jobs although such jobs are not economical.

(v) Absence of competitive technology in Govt. of India Presses.

(vi) Interruption in power supply resulting in low production.

(vii) Mismatch of operatives with reference to machines.

(d) The steps being taken in this regard are as follows:—

(i) Client Ministries/Departments are being requested to supply

camera-ready copies of manuscripts so that high cost of composing by old technology is avoided.

(ii) Steps are being taken to properly utilize the machines and equipment with a view to remove the mismatch between the crew and the machine.

Low capacity utilization of printing presses

1583. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the average capacity utilisation varied between 31 per cent and 44 per cent during 1993-94 and 1997-98 and the percentage of utilisation was only 15 to 17 in three presses, besides low productivity in all the presses;

(b) whether the significant delays of over five years in completion of jobs and delays of 5-12 years in despatch of printed products were another stigma for management ineffectiveness, which had caused late receipts of printing costs;

(c) if, so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what sincere steps Government propose to take to remove and check these deficiencies on a permanent basis?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There has been delay in execution and despatch of printed jobs and reasons for the same are as under:—

(i) Printed material could not be despatched timely due to non-availability of railway wagons etc. and bills regarding printing charges could not be preferred as they are received only after supply of the printed material to the indentors.

(ii) Delay in execution of printed jobs are mainly due to over-riding priorities given to different jobs by the indentors, delay in approval of proofs by the indentors, non-supply of complete material/ manuscript by the indentors, old machinery and power failure, mismatch of staff with machinery, voluminous and long-run jobs, mostly manual system of binding and other similar limitations.